

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2345

INFO USUN NEW YORK 2805

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECWA, OCON, UN, XF

SUBJECT: ECWA SECOND PLENARY APRIL 21 BEIRUT

REF: (ALL 1974) STATE 101533, 103804, 114830; BEIRUT 5723,
5894

1. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT 2ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF YEAR-OLD UN REGIONAL ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR WESTERN
ASIA (ECWA) SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 21 BEIRUT.

2. WHILE DELIVERING AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S LUNCHEON
INVITATION (SEPTELS) EMBOFF HAD OPPORTUNITY CHECK UP
ON THIS YEAR'S PROCEDURE FOR GAINING "CONSULTATIVE
STATUS" FOR USG. QUALIFIED SECRETARIAT SOURCE,
SAYS STATUS MUST BE RENEWED EACH YEAR AND PROCEDURE
SAME AS LAST YEAR: WE REQUEST CONSULTATIVE STATUS BY
LETTER (SOURCE ADVISED "WRITE SAME LETTER AND CHANGE
DATES"), REPLY COMES ONLY WHEN CONFERENCE OPENS AND
DELEGATES "INVITE" USG AND OTHER APPLICANTS. SEE
REFTELS FOR LAST YEAR'S EXPERIENCE.

3. SOMEWHAT MORE CONFIDENT THAN LAST YEAR, SOURCE SAID
ECWA'S INVITATION A MERE FORMALITY; ALL BUT ONE UN
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MEMBER ELIGIBLE FOR CONSULTATIVE STATUS. (COMMENT:

ECWA ATMOSPHERE LATELY MORE RELAXED. EMBOFF GREETED AS OLD FRIEND WHO WAS THERE WHEN IT ALL BEGAN.)

4. TIME DID NOT PERMIT DISCUSSION OF AGENDA BUT, AS LAST YEAR, IT LIKELY BE RELEASED VERY LATE FROM NEW YORK, LEAVING LITTLE TIME FOR FORMAL WASHINGTON POSITION PAPERS. WE HAVE NOTHING YET ON POSSIBLE SUBSTANTIVE CONTENT BUT ONE MAIN ITEM OF USG INTEREST LIKELY BE APPLICATIONS OF NEW MEMBERS, PROBABLY PAKISTAN, POSSIBLY EGYPT AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

5. ACTION REQUESTED:

A. APPLICATION: LAST YEAR, PURSUANT DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS (REFTELS, WE APPLIED BY LETTER DATED MAY 17 FROM AMBASSADOR TO EXEC SCTY AL-ATTAR. CITING PARA 4 ECWA'S TERMS OF REFERENCE, WE "REQUESTED CONSULTATIVE STATUS FOR THE USA FOR THE DURATION OF ECWA'S FIRST PLENARY SESSION . . . BASED ON THE US' LONG INVOLVEMENT IN THE OTHER UN REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ITS MANY SPECIAL INTERESTS IN THE AREA COVERED BY ECWA'S MEMBERS AND ITS IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO ALL UN EXPENSES". UNLESS DEPARTMENT HAS DEVELOPED OBJECTIONS THIS PROCEDURE, WOULD APPRECIATE BEING AUTHORIZED SEND ESSENTIALLY SAME LETTER NEAR FUTURE FOR THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE. EARLY USG APPROACH PARTIALLY INTENDED PROD ECWA INTO FOCUSING ON SUBJECT TO MINIMIZE CONFUSION WHICH PREVAILED LAST YEAR. ECWA SECRETARY GEORGE HADDAD (A NEW POSITION) FULLY AWARE WE EXPECT RECEIVE CONSULTATIVE STATUS; PROBABLY WILL FACILITATE PROCESS BEHIND SCENES.

B. DELEGATION: SINCE FORMAL ACCEPTANCE USG NOT RPT NOT POSSIBLE UNTIL CONFERENCE OPENS APRIL 21, AND SINCE WE VIRTUALLY ASSURED OF INVITATION BARRING SUDDEN DETERIORATION US STANDING HERE, DEPARTMENT SHOULD START THINKING ABOUT SIZE AND COMPOSITION DELEGATION. MAIN CONCERN IS HOTEL RESERVATIONS, WHICH LIKELY BE DIFFICULT OBTAIN IN APRIL. FOR LODGING PURPOSES, WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING NUMBER ANY WASHINGTON DELEGATES NLT MARCH 21.

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